

## Quelle:

ALOYSIUS MUENCH, 15 PUNKTE ZU DEN AUSSENPOLITISCHEN POSITIONEN DER KATHOLISCHEN KIRCHE. SCHREIBEN AN UNBEKANNTE AMERIKANISCHE GEHEIMDIENST- UND REGIERUNGSKREISE (MÄRZ 1951) [TRANSKRIPT]<sup>1</sup>

1. The proposition is submitted on the basis of interest of the Church
2. Undoubtedly, the interest is also extended towards the Bonn government and Germany in general.
3. Since the US is in sympathy with Adenauer's desire to prevent Soviet influence in Germany and to avoid a possible sovietisation of Germany, one ought to know how far this matter was discussed with the US High Commisioner, and what efforts are being made by him to "win over" France and England to the plan of allowing West Germany to set up its own "home defense army"
4. If Adenauer knows about the secret dealings of France with Russia, the US undoubtedly knows about it too.
5. Has the US made overtures to France, and what are they?
6. Certainly, the US is in a position to "trade favors" with France on the basis that France will not pursue a policy of appeasement with Russia at the expense of West Germany.
7. The US is helping France in Indo-China with materials of war whereas Russia is supporting and promoting war in that area. Does France expect to gain a settlement in Indo-China from the Soviets in exchange for her support on the neutralization of Germany?
8. If so, why should the US and Germany be the scape-goats!
9. Perhaps U.S. policy should be more firm with France and Britain; as Mr. Austin was in the UN with regard to denouncing China as aggressor. This firm policy weakened the Soviet bloc, and it seems to me that if similar firm policy were exercised with respect to Germany's defense army, Russia's plan of bolshevising Europe would receive a big set-back. This might hurry along their plan to use force, but it does not seem probable that it will happen while the US has advantages over needed materials. Other factors also are known that would hinder Russian aggression in Europe, such as present unrest in satellite countries, trouble with the party in Italy, Titoism, etc.
10. If the U.S. is with Adenauer on the proposal that the Vatican should use [its] influence with Catholic French Statesmen, then the U.S. is trying to obtain a service which ought to be gotten through official representation at the Vatican.
11. Neutralization of Germany per se is not harmful to the Church; but this same neutralization invites a "coup d'Etat" on the part of the Russians which, if accomplished, would be harmful to the Church as is seen in other countries under Soviet domination.

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<sup>1</sup> Archivio Apostolico Vaticano, Rom, B.157, Fasc. 33, „questioni politico-religiose“; Quelle zu dem Essay: Simon Unger-Alvi, Wiederbewaffnung oder Wiedervereinigung? Deutsch-vatikanische Politik zwischen Adenauer und Pius XII, in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte, 2022, URL: <<https://www.europa.clio-online.de/essay/id-fdae-112847>>.

12. What will the Vatican do if the matter is brought to them? It will either discuss it with the French representative at the Vatican, or take up the matter quietly with the Nunciature in Paris.

In the latter case, the Nuntius will be expected to get in touch with Catholic Frenchmen. For what purpose? To point out dangers to the Church if Germany is neutralized? This is hardly enough. The Nuntius will then have to treat the subject on a political basis, namely, the danger of sovietising a neutral Germany – from which, however, will follow, as experience shows, the suppression of the Church. In consequence, the Nuntius will be collaborating with the U.S. and Western Germany in their efforts to build up a defensive army. This becomes known, and the Soviets will have another “fact” to accuse the church of fomenting war, assuming that the rearmament of W. Germany can be considered a provocation of war between East and West.

13. Will the Vatican act without facts? Will it want to know the source of Adenauer’s claim that the French are seeking secret negotiations with Russia?

Naturally, the Vatican will know how to take care of this matter, if consideration to Adenauer’s plan is considered.

14. As far as I can figure out, this is a matter for Bonn and the U.S. to fight out; the former to lay open the charges to the Allied Commission, and the latter to insist on full cooperation with the U.S. in stopping further Soviet aggrandizement and eventually destroying it altogether.

15. Would there be any advantage in feeling out the Intelligence Office through de Neufville or Watson?

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Aloysius Muench, 15 Punkte zu den außenpolitischen Positionen der katholischen Kirche. Schreiben an unbekannte amerikanische Geheimdienst- und Regierungskreise (März 1951) [Transkript], in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte, 2022, URL: <<https://www.europa.clio-online.de/quelle/id/q63-76819>>.

Simon Unger-Alvi, Wiederbewaffnung oder Wiedervereinigung? Deutsch-vatikanische Politik zwischen Adenauer und Pius XII, in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte, 2022, URL: <<https://www.europa.clio-online.de/essay/id-fdae-112847>>.